



Review Committee of the I-Jobs Board of Directors
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

July 30, 2009

iowagreatplaces.gov

Re: Warren County (National Balloon Museum) Application for Local Infrastructure
Competitive Grant Program-2010

Citizen Advisory
Board:

Robin Anderson
Chair
Mason City

David Bernstein
Vice-Chair
Sioux City

Scott Brennan
Des Moines

Ms. Dustin Embree
Estherville

Samantha Erickson
Pleasant Hill

Robert Fritsch
Dubuque

Mark Ginsberg
Iowa City

Thomas Hanafan
Council Bluffs

Quentin Hart
Waterloo

Theresa Lynch
Marion

Ruth Smith
Lamoni

Rita Vargas
Davenport

Cyndi Pederson
Director

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the Great Places program, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Warren County Local Infrastructure grant application.

Warren County was designated an "Iowa Great Place" in October 2008, and was officially entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Governor Culver in February, 2009. Development of the National Balloon Museum is an integral part of the plan to improve the quality of Life for residents and visitors to Warren County. It is also part of the work plan that came out of the community visioning process.

In obtaining the Great Places designation, the State of Iowa has committed to assisting Warren County in the implementation of their plan by offering technical and financial assistance to achieve maximum impact.

The National Balloon Museum needs assistance from the proposed grant application to stop the erosion that resulted from the heavy rains that affected Warren County in June/July 2008. The Balloon Museum sustained substantial erosion/failure. FEMA funds were used as a "temporary" repair but the project is not eligible for permanent repairs under FEMA guidelines. The erosion has continued and the National Balloon Museum has suffered continued damage. The permanent repair will mitigate further damage and preserve the infrastructure of the National Balloon Museum.

Due to the collaborative nature and the new partnerships that Great Places has created through the proposal process, there is strong community support for this project.

I am confident that investment in this project is money well spent and I invite the Local Infrastructure Grant Program to give Warren County's grant application the full weight of extra consideration granted to Great Places under the Governor's Executive Order and statutory authority pursuant to section 303.3c Iowa Code.

As Program Coordinator for Great Places, and as part of the Department of Cultural Affairs our agency enthusiastically supports this grant application.

Sincerely,

Francis Boggus
State Coordinator Great Places Program
Department of Cultural Affairs
600 E. Locust Street, third floor
Des Moines Iowa 50319-0290
Tel: 515-281-6911
Fax: 515-242-6498
Email: francis.boggus@iowa.gov
Web site: www.iowagreatplaces.gov

July 30, 2009


Dear Review Committee of the I-JOBS Board of Directors:

The Indianola Development Association is writing on behalf of the City of Indianola's request for assistance to repair the damage the heavy rains caused the side of the hill adjacent to the museum. The National Balloon Classic and the National Balloon Museum is a vital part of the Indianola community. Both have a significant economic impact on the community. The National Balloon Museum houses the National Balloon Classic, which brings 70,000 visitors to its weeklong event. The National Balloon museum has 24,000 visitors a year and provides exhibits and collections illustrating the history of ballooning.

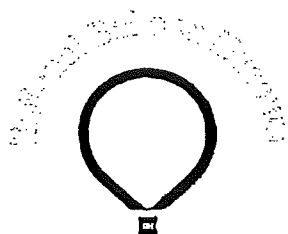
The National Balloon Museum is a non-profit that is very dependant on volunteers. This makes the cost of repairing the lands partial slide into the creek financial devastating to the museum. Both events are tied together and have a long history in Indianola and enjoy board community support. Many of the citizens view the balloons with the ballooning event and museum at a significant part of the community's identity.

The Indianola Development Association feels it is critical to permanently fixing the hill adjacent to the National Balloon Museum.

Sincerely,



Myles Kappelman,
Executive Director



July 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The problem at 1601 North Jefferson Way, which is caused by the erosion of the ground on which the National Balloon Museum is built, is more than just an eye-sore for the people entering the Indianola from the north. It will eventually damage the foundation of the Museum. The entire area north of the Museum is sinking! The only reason the whole area isn't down the hill is the locust trees to the north are barely holding the hill in place. We filled two large sink holes, one on the west side and one to the north side of the Museum. Because of the erosion of the hill we have had to pay to have a tree and the Memorial Garden moved as well as other landscaping.

Our museum has been chosen as one of Iowa Great Places. We have been qualified for several grants to enlarge our facility. We are unable to continue with our plans because of the instability of the hill. With the hill falling away we have lost a considerable amount of ground on which we were scheduled to start construction next year.

The city tried to stabilize the hill by adding 40 dump truck loads of dirt with additional tilling to attempt to control the erosion. It was not successful. We still have less ground than we did in the beginning.

We feel that the only proper way to keep part of our building from sliding into the ditch is to add a concrete culvert from the highway to the trees and then cover it with dirt north to the Super 8 Motel. The area can then be seeded. This will give us a better looking town entrance, the support we need for our parking lot and the new addition. It will also eliminate any safety issues with the parking area.

The National Balloon Museum brings in 6,000 to 8,000 visitors in Indianola each year. We have had to block off a third of our parking lot because the extra weight would cause more damage to hill. Part of our parking lot is already hanging over the cliff.

Please decide to help Indianola quickly and us with our emergency!

Thank you for your consideration.

Becky Wigeland
Becky Wigeland, Curator

National Balloon Museum

PO Box 149

Indianola, IA 50125

www.nationalballoonmuseum.com

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING I-JOBS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE
GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, I-JOBS has been created to assist in disaster rebuilding and mitigation;

WHEREAS, the permanent repair/stabilization of the north slope at the National Balloon Museum will mitigate additional erosion/failure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE INDIANOLA CITY COUNCIL

That the City of Indianola, Iowa

Fully endorses the submission of a grant application by City of Indianola.

Passed, approved and adopted this 3rd day of August, 2009.

Jerry Kelley, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diana Bowlin, City Clerk